

# Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

A high volume mailing error detection system for processing a mail piece, the mail piece having associated therewith mail piece bar code information, the system comprising:

optical detector for obtaining an image of the mail piece information;

a mail piece mover for moving bulk mail including the mail piece through the system; and

means for comparing the bar code image with a database for detecting bar code errors concerning the mail piece bar code information.

[c2] The system of claim 1, wherein the database comprises a data set of data sent to a printer head, wherein the printer head placed at least a portion of the mail piece information on the mail piece.

[c3] The system of claim 1, wherein the database comprises a data set of post office physical specifications.

[c4] The system of claim 3, wherein the database further comprises an updated residency database.

- [c5] The system of claim 3, wherein the database comprises a data set of data sent to a printer head, wherein the printer head placed at least a portion of the mail piece information on the mail piece.
- [c6] The system of claim 3, wherein the mail piece information includes a bar code, and the post office specifications include specifications regarding the legibility of bar codes; and  
means for generating a sampling error report indicating the error rate.
- [c7] A large volume error detection mailing system for sampling bar code errors in a piece of mail, the mail piece having associated therewith mail piece bar code information, the system comprising:  
an optical image detection for capturing an image of the mail piece bar code information;  
a bulk mail mover for moving the piece of mail at least partway through the system; and  
means for comparing the bar code image to at least one database, including:  
data correlated to the bar code information on the piece of mail; and  
data corresponding to post office bar code specifications for a piece of mail.

- [c8] A method for the in-house bar code error detection of a large volume of mail, comprising the steps of:  
obtaining bar code data associated with a piece of mail;  
performing an error detection check on the mail piece bar code data; and  
generating a error sampling report relating to the step of performing bar code error detection check.
- [c9] The method of claim 8, wherein the error detection report allows the user of the method to bypass at least a portion of the post office mail piece error detection methods.
- [c10] The method of claim 8, wherein the step of obtaining data includes the step of optically obtaining an image of the address data.
- [c11] The method of claim 8, wherein the step of performing a verification check comprises the steps of:  
comparing the optically captured image to post office bar code specifications; and  
comparing the optical bar code image to the bar code information intended to be printed on the piece of mail.
- [c12] The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of activating an alarm when the mail piece fails the error detection check.

- [c13] The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of activating an alarm when inaccuracy of the information on a plurality of mail pieces reaches a predetermined number.
- [c14] The method of claim 13, wherein the alarm is audible.
- [c15] A system for accurately reading an image and data associated with a piece of mail, comprising:  
a computer having an original database for printing information on a piece of mail;  
a printer for printing the information on a piece of mail using the original database;  
a reader of an image of the information printed on the piece of mail; and  
means for comparing the image obtained from the reader with the original database and a second database.
- [c16] The system of claim 15, wherein the second database includes post office physical specifications.
- [c17] The system of claim 15, wherein the second database includes updated residency information from the post office.
- [c18] The system of claim 15, further comprising a strobe light for illuminating the piece of mail for the reader.

[c19] The system of claim 18, wherein the strobe light has a variable frequency strobe.